REVIVAL OF HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION, RANCHI

*328 SHRI SHIBHU SOREN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are contemplating grant of package of Rs. 500 crores for the Revival of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details of such package; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) A revival package for HEC has already been sanctioned by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction on 26-8-1996 and approved by the Government on 24-12-1996 envisaging a cash infusion of approximately Rs. 253 crores and other financial restructuring amounting to approximately Rs. 585 crores. This package is currently under implementation.

Lifting of ban on imports

†*329. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of Consumer items (excluding food grains) among 1773 items on which the import ban has been lifted from 1996-97 to 1999;

(b) the number of consumer goods, out of the above-mentioned items, which are not being produced in India;

(c) the number of items being used by the indigenous industries out of the item in respect of which ban has been lifted; and

(d) the percentage of food grains among these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Consumer goods have been defined in The Export and Import Policy as—"Any consumption goods which can directly satisfy human needs without further processing and include consumer durables and accessories thereof". Taking this definition into account, approximately 65% of the 1773 items, on which import restrictions have been removed can be classified as consumer goods.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Most of the items on which these import restrictions have been removed are produced in India, excepting certain electronic and hi-technology products like cellular phones and certain types of computers etc.

All the items on which import restrictions have been removed and which are other than consumer goods can be used by the indigenous industry.

Food grains are classified under Chapter 10 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002. Import restriction on only one food grain—"common/coarse varieties of rice and rice, with 50% or more broken"—was removed vide notification 5/1997—2002 on 27-5-1997.

Operationalisation of certain subsidies in States

*330. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Transport Subsidy, Central Capital Subsidy and Central Working Capital Subsidy are Operational;

(b) the quantum and eligibility criteria for above schemes;

(c) the state-wise sanctions and disbursements for the past five years;

(d) the nodal agency for administering these schemes in the North-Eastern Region;

(e) the reasons for delay in putting the new arrangements in place for the North Eastern Region; and

(f) by when these schemes are expected to be streamlined ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) :

(a) As on 1-04-2000, Transport Subsidy Scheme, Central Capital Investment Subsidy and Central Interest Subsidy Scheme are in operation in the North-East region comprising the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The Transport Subsidy Scheme was applicable to other regions of the country also namely the State of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, 8 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling district of West Bengal, Union Territory of A&N Islands and Lakshadweep till 31-3-2000.